

# County Clips

## Spotlight On:

100th Anniversary  
of Veterans Day

See Page 4



## Reflections on 2018 and Projections for Contra Costa County



Ask any County employee at 651 Pine Street in Martinez and they will tell you that the greatest accomplishment of 2018 was the groundbreaking of the new Administration Building and fast-tracked completion for July 2020. I

completely concur! I have many fond memories of working at 651 Pine Street, as do many of you, but we must move into the 21st Century, and our new building will be inviting to all who work and do business in Contra Costa County.

Looking back at the past year, California faced challenges of community violence that broke our hearts, fierce fires that destroyed whole communities, and natural disasters that continue to threaten our aging infrastructure. With each challenge, we also saw neighbors coming together to aid those in need and local jurisdictions and cross sectors working in partnership to leverage resources for much needed services. My hope is that we continue to uplift each other through compassion and working together towards creative problem solving.

I'd like to highlight two propositions from the 2018 elections that have huge impacts to our County.

### PROPOSITION 6

Prop 6 was an attempt to repeal a gas tax measure (SB1) that was enacted in 2017. Luckily, the voters of California did not pass Prop 6 and kept the gas tax in place. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) estimated that Contra Costa County would receive \$14.2M annually. This is much needed funding to address our deteriorating transportation infrastructure. The additional funding would help address road and bridge maintenance, street sweeping, storm drainage, vegetation management, illegal dumping, and other environmental mitigations.

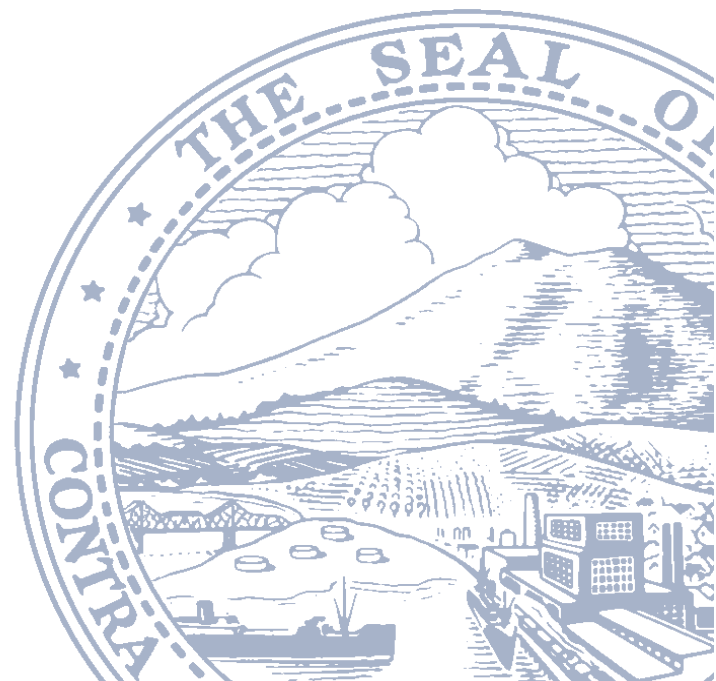
### MEASURE R

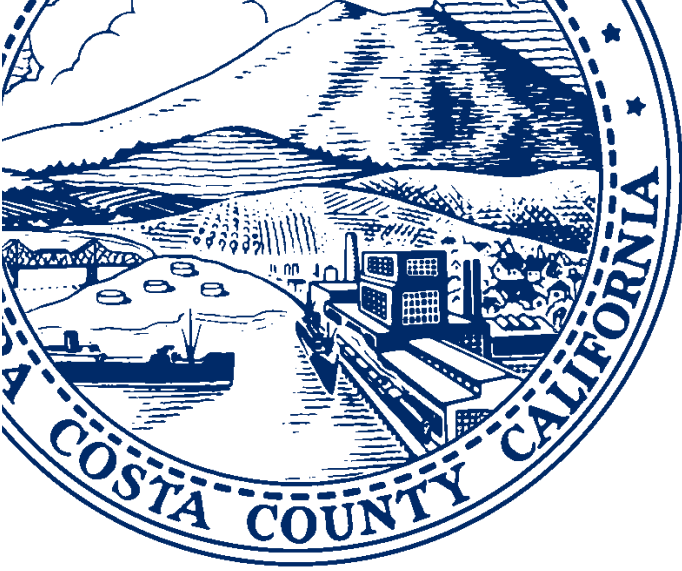
Measure R is a general tax on cannabis businesses that want to locate in approved unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County. Business activities include: cultivating, manufacturing, producing, processing, preparing, storing, providing, donating, selling, or distributing cannabis or cannabis products. The passage of this measure allows the County to collect funds from these businesses to increase law enforcement and educational programming for youth.

The funding from both Prop 6 and Measure R are vital to providing adequate services to our residents.

As we enter a new year, it is important to highlight the County-wide challenges of homelessness and housing. These are intertwined issues that are multi-layered in the way they begin and is often concurrent with mental health challenges. We live in a time where working families are couch surfing with their children, it is not uncommon for family members to work more than one job, owning a home is out of reach for most, and there is a lack of infrastructure that is sensitive to our growing aging population.

As we work together on these issues in 2019, I am hopeful and ready to continue making Contra Costa County the best place to work and live for all of us.





# County Clips

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**On Cover:** Lieutenant Colonel Mike Hudson, United States Marine Corps (Retired) Afghanistan War, Iraq War

## Recommendations Please

County Clips is your employee newsletter. Please send us your comments, questions & suggestions.

Contact the Office of Communications & Media at (925) 313-1180 or email us at [CCTV@contracostatv.org](mailto:CCTV@contracostatv.org).

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# Spotlight on...



## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Veterans Day Celebration

On Tuesday, November 13th, the Board of Supervisors paused their busy agenda to spend an hour to pay respects to and honor our nation's Veterans. This ceremony has occurred every year, typically during the Tuesday board meeting that is closest to the nationally observed holiday on November 11th. However, this year's event was particularly significant, as it commemorated the 100th Anniversary of Veterans Day.

*“ The ceremony began with the presentation of the colors by the Concord Veterans Memorial Building Association color-guard, followed by a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem by Vietnam Veteran Richard O’ Connor. ”*

At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the Armistice was signed officially ending World War I. It was the full intent of the parties that The Great War would be The War to End War. As we all know, this hope did not come to fruition, but not for a lack of effort on behalf of those who fought in that very difficult war.

The "Guns of August", a compelling documentary, details all that took place during World War I. It provides an accurate and incredible visual about the harsh conditions, deadly fighting, and critical outcomes that were at stake. During the ceremony, all of the speakers shared in their feelings of gratefulness for those who fought in World War I, and expressed gratitude for those who served in our Armed Forces since the signing of the World War I Armistice in 1954. Veterans Day, a day to honor our Veterans, thanks them for their service, and reminds us of the price that they paid to defend our freedom and the U.S. Constitution.

Many months were spent planning a ceremony that would properly honor such a significant day. Board staff members Jennifer Quallick, James Lyons, Colleen Isenberg, Dawn Morrow, and Dominic Aliano spent countless hours piecing together a ceremony program.

WWII Pearl Harbor Survivor, Earl "Chuck" Kohler

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## Spotlight Continued from Page 4

The program was deep and rich in content, while also being thoughtful and strategic in overcoming obstacles and barriers that people may face in attending the ceremony. An example of this was outreaching to the community senior centers to set up a shuttle service that would provide free rides to community members coming from as far away as Richmond, Danville and Brentwood.

The ceremony began with the presentation of the colors by the Concord Veterans Memorial Building Association color-guard, followed by a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem by Vietnam Veteran Richard O' Connor and local student Brooke Beckham. A short video, produced by Contra Costa Television, aired during the ceremony, which featured legends within our Veteran community, including Pearl Harbor survivors, Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, and Afghanistan & Iraq War Veterans. These warriors reflected on their experiences in the battles that have occurred since the War to End All Wars or WWI, and further spoke on their thoughts on commemorating Veterans Day and the practice of civilians "thanking Veterans for their service." The video can be seen here: [https://youtu.be/eDX1H0g-6\\_M](https://youtu.be/eDX1H0g-6_M).

While wearing his dress blue uniform, Lt. Col (retired) Mike Hudson, who served for 25-years in the United States Marine Corps spoke on the history of our nation's wars and reminded us of mistakes that we have made, such as treating our Vietnam Veterans with disdain when they returned home.

*Top: Supervisor Karen Mitchoff addresses the audience*

*Middle: County Veterans Service Officer, Nathan Johnson, addresses the audience*

*Bottom: Supervisor Mitchoff presents a Veterans Service Office volunteer with a certificate of appreciation*



Spotlight Continued on Page 6



The ceremony was concluded by Vietnam Veteran Bill Nelson, who read his original Veterans Day poem, which included words such as "Thank you for your service. With pride a simple thank you. Thank you for commitment. Thank you for giving."

After the ceremony, everyone was treated to a special BBQ prepared by Vietnam Veteran Wylie Henry. A delicious spread of savory chicken, beans and potato salad brought everyone together at the Martinez Veterans Memorial Building, so that with a sense of community and a warm meal, those in attendance could share their feelings about how special Veterans Day really is, and how grateful they are that Contra Costa County is the best place for a Veteran to come home to.



*Vietnam Veteran, Bill Nelson, recites his poem*



*Clerk-Recorder's Office staff assists a WWII veteran in recording his DD-214 and other veterans/family members are also assisted.*

## Operation Documentation for Veterans at the Clerk-Recorder's Office

On November 14th, County offices, veterans service agencies and community organizations, continued their mission to help veterans and their families have peace of mind when it comes to veteran benefits. The 2nd annual Operation Documentation event was held near Veterans Day and was hosted by the Clerk-Recorder's Office in collaboration with the Veterans Service Office and other groups.

For veterans and their spouses, one of the most important documents they obtain during their military career is a DD-214 Honorable Discharge form. This verification of service document is required for many benefits, including VA housing loans, health and retirement benefits. The County offers veterans a place to record and store their DD-214 documents, with records going back to 1849. There is no cost for veterans and their families to record DD-214s or to retrieve a certified copy of the document once it is recorded.

Over 40 veterans stopped by the event, including a World War II veteran, to record their DD-214 and receive consultation on their benefits from Veterans Service staff members. They were also able to find out about other County programs and benefits available. The Contra Costa Assessor and Tax Collector offices provided information

about property tax and business license exemptions. Human Resources passed out information about County job openings. DMV answered questions about veterans' status on driver's license and identification cards.

"The turnout for this event continues to be impressive," County Veteran Services Officer Nathan Johnson said. "There was pretty much a steady stream of veterans coming to the event all morning." Staff members assisted 46 former military members and their families, Johnson said. County employees who worked at the street fair-style event said they are pleased to provide services for those who served with such valor for the country.

The event helped spotlight a service that is offered every day at the Clerk-Recorder's Office. Most veterans are unaware that the County provides this service *free of charge*. During the last two years of the Operation Documentation event, more veterans recorded their DD-214s than had in the previous five years combined!

## November 2018 Midterm Election

A record number of Contra Costa County voters cast their ballots in the most recent General Election, 20% more registered voters participated than in the last midterm election in 2014. Despite the increased volume, the well-prepared and hard-working Contra Costa Elections Division staff, augmented by talented seasonal staff, proved to be up to the task.

The Contra Costa Elections Division recently certified the election results from the November 6th election, capping a marathon of handling newly-registered voters, providing new convenient voting options and ensuring that all votes were counted accurately. "It takes a lot of hands to make sure that everything goes smoothly and all the moving parts work together," Contra Costa Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters Joe Canciamilla said. "I couldn't be more proud of the work our staff did to certify this election."

Democracy proved to be alive and well in Contra Costa County, as all 268 polling places were consistently busy throughout Election Day. At the Elections Division Office itself, lines of voters who missed the voter registration deadline took advantage of a new state program that allows people to conditionally register and vote on the spot. Meanwhile, vote-by-mail voters returned their envelopes in record numbers.

All told, 423,328 voters cast their ballots, which is a turnout percentage of 68.29%. With that influx of ballots, it took a lot of thorough, dogged work by the Elections team to verify the eligibility of each and every voter and make sure that every vote counted the way it should. "It's a very labor-intensive process," Canciamilla said. Elections Office staff stayed after hours many nights to complete the election, from Wednesday nights in September processing incoming voter registrations to prevent backlogs ahead of the October 22th deadline to many nights in November processing returned ballots.

As it turned out, Contra Costa County now has an all-time high number of registered voters. On Election Day, there were just over 620,000 registered voters. With the election now in the rear view, the Elections Division's focus now shifts toward 2020, and a Presidential Primary Election that will be in March. The Division's goal continues to be the improvement of all processes while making voting as easy and convenient as possible for Contra Costa County voters.



*Large number of voters line-up to vote at the Elections Office on Election Day*



*1% of votes must be hand-counted for accuracy and quality assurance purposes*



*Processing all the votes is labor intensive*



*County employees process votes via election machines*



## Goodbye to Fines

As of January 1st, the Contra Costa County Library eliminated daily fines and cleared balances on library accounts. This applies to overdue books, magazines, DVDs and other materials. By eliminating fines, the library is removing barriers and making access easy, equitable and enjoyable for everyone.

"Our libraries are open for the entire community to take advantage of all they have to offer," said Contra Costa County Supervisor Karen Mitchoff. "Saying goodbye to fines gives everyone an opportunity to restart their relationship with the library."

*"Families are staying away from the library because it's simply too expensive for them."*

Of more than 654,000 cardholders countywide, 118,450 (18%) had their cards blocked due to fines. 43% of youth accounts owed a balance and approximately 21,000 youth cards were blocked at a critical time in their lives.

"Families are staying away from the library because it's simply too expensive for them," said County Librarian Melinda Cervantes. "We don't want people to have to choose between putting food on the table and reading."

Overdue library material fines and library material replacement charges make up approximately 2% of the library's revenue. Since 2013, revenue from fines and charges has decreased by 31%. During this same period, circulation of eBooks and other e-resources have increased 128%. E-resources are already fine free and benefit those with greater access to technology.



Eliminating overdue fines will also result in more positive customer interactions and allow staff to focus on creativity and exceptional service.

"We have so many outstanding and enthusiastic staff members who would much rather spend their time helping someone find the next great read or learn how to use one of our online resources," said Deputy County Librarian Nancy Kreiser. "They can spend more time making people smile."

The Contra Costa County Library is the first county library in California and largest in the state to eliminate fines for everyone. The Library joins others across the country that have gone fine-free.

Patrons will still be expected to return library materials on time. Checkout periods on materials will remain the same and patrons will incur a replacement charge if materials are not returned 30 days after the due date.

The Contra Costa County Library has 26 branches across the county. For more information, visit [ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org).

## HazMat Team Takes Top Honors!



Congratulations to our HazMat team for winning first place in the hazardous materials emergency response competition at this year's Urban Shield event. Our HazMat crew competed against 11 other agencies.

From left to right: Hung "John" Pham, Karine Abramians, Maria Duazo, Daniel Vazquez, Adam Springer, David LeCount, Ian Williams, Ellen Dempsey, Trisha Johnson





## Contra Costa Volunteers, Service Providers Honored During Homelessness Awareness Month

Contra Costa County observed National Homelessness Awareness Month with an art exhibit and award ceremony for volunteers and service providers at the November 13th Board of Supervisors meeting. Before the meeting, the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness and Contra Costa Health Services' Division of Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3) held a reception for the inaugural recipients of the County's Homelessness Awareness Month awards:



- Paula Robinson earned the Outstanding Volunteer award for her work in West County. Whether it's cooking breakfast and ministering to homeless residents every weekend at her church in Richmond or distributing backpacks stuffed with supplies at the Brookside Shelter in San Pablo, Paula's tradition of giving has bettered the lives of many Contra Costans.
- H3 recognized Kimberly Pruitt as this year's Outstanding Landlord for her role in helping homeless residents transition into housing over the past 20 years. Kimberly currently has more than 16 units which house formerly homeless tenants. In addition to providing exemplary property management, she treats her tenants with respect, dignity and patience.
- Senior Housing Workshops was the program recognized in the Innovative Project or Program category. These workshops support seniors struggling with homelessness and helps them navigate assistance programs electronically. The workshop is conducted by the Information and Assistance Unit of Contra Costa County's Employment and Human Services Department.

The reception included a photovoice exhibit, "Call for Change," featuring pictures and personal stories from Contra Costa residents who are experiencing homelessness. Photovoice is a form of art that combines photography with commentary from the creator to illuminate overlooked issues or aspects of the community, from the artist's perspective.

About 2,300 Contra Costa residents spend any given night in shelters or living on the street, according to the annual point-in-time counts organized by H3. H3 and the Council on Homelessness help coordinate the network of community and faith-based organizations that provide the services homeless residents need to address the challenges that led them to lose housing, and to regain it.

During the meeting after the reception, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution formally observing National Homelessness Awareness Month in the County. As part of the presentation to the Board, Constance Bravos, LMFT, a mental health clinician with Contra Costa Behavioral Health, shared her story of being homeless in Contra Costa for more than three years when she was a child and the long-lasting impact of that experience.



## New Lafayette Fire Station

Con Fire's new Fire Station 16 in Lafayette continues to take shape with the roof going on just ahead of December's rains. At year's end, plumbing and electrical work were going in and the project was on schedule for a Spring 2019 re-opening. Fire Station 16 will be strategically located in northwestern Lafayette to better protect this area, with its combination of dense residential construction, hilly terrain and heavy vegetation, from the threat of wildland fires such as those experienced across the state in recent years. The previous Fire Station 16 was closed in 2012 as a result of the "Great Recession." When completed, Fire Station 16 will comprise a single bay for one fire engine as well dormitories and support facilities for its three-firefighter crew. The construction contract is valued at \$3.4 million.

*Above: With site preparations completed, workers "cemented"*

*Below: Fire Station 16 began to go "vertical" in early November.*



## Destination Weddings



opted to have their ceremonies in the early evening and take advantage of the dramatic backdrop of the sun setting over the water.

The Clerk-Recorder team is again planning Destination Weddings in 2019, starting with a return to the historic John Muir House on Valentine's Day.

**The Clerk-Recorder's Office** continues to offer Destination Weddings at unique, picturesque locations around Contra Costa County. Ceremonies were offered at the scenic Rosie the Riveter Historic Park in Richmond on September 7th and Pittsburg's majestic California Theatre on November 30th.

Couples enjoyed the gorgeous, sweeping views of San Francisco, San Francisco Bay and beyond as a backdrop for their wedding ceremonies in Richmond. Some lucky couples







## Creek and Channel Safety Month

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Flood Control District) along with the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors declared October as Creek and Channel Safety Awareness Month. In 2011, two former Walnut Creek Intermediate (WCI) students who later attended Las Lomas High School, died in a tragic accident while attempting to raft in a local flood control channel. Since then, the Flood Control District annually outreaches to all schools within the County to raise awareness of being safe around flood control channels. This year, Contra Costa County Public Works, the Contra Costa Fire District and the Flood Control District went to WCI for a creek and channel safety assembly.



Representatives from Supervisor Andersen's office and Supervisor Mitchoff's office presented certificates to the "Stay Out Stay Alive" poster contest winners. The Fire District showcased a boat that it takes out to rescue a person from a creek or channel. And the Flood Control District gave out "Stay Out Stay Alive" wristbands and other materials to help inform the young people at WCI about the dangers of the surrounding creeks and channels.



## Santa Comes to Buchanan Airport

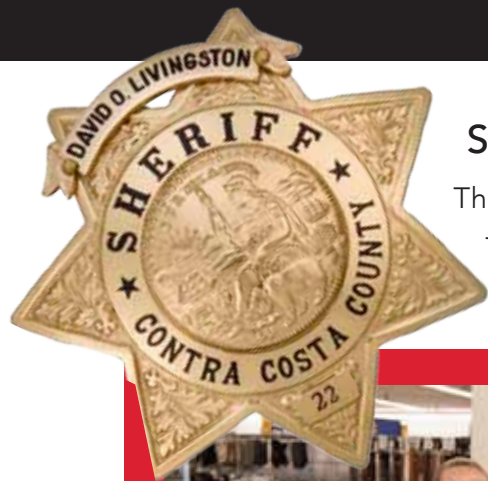
The early morning rainy weather did not keep hundreds of children from lining up to greet Santa and his Elf. They cheered as Santa and his Elf flew into the Buchanan Field Airport in Concord, CA on Saturday, December 1st, aboard a Eurocopter Helicopter piloted by CalStar Air Medical Services, an air ambulance service based at the airfield.



Santa and his Elf greeted the children waiting outside and at the Crowne Plaza Hotel where the line stretched from one end of the hotel to the other for a chance to visit with Santa and take home a keepsake memory picture. The free Buchanan Field Airport event raised hundreds of pounds of food and hundreds of dollars in donations for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.







## Shop with the Sheriff

The Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff hosted the 5th Annual Shop with the Sheriff on December 11, 2018. This holiday season, 25 deserving elementary school aged children from West Contra Costa County received Christmas



*“It is our way of giving back to the community. It is by far one of our favorite days of the year.”*

gifts and were able to buy presents for their families thanks to generous donations.

The event paired the children with Contra Costa County Sheriff David Livingston and uniformed Deputy Sheriffs, who took them for some holiday fun and shopping at Walmart at Hilltop Mall in Richmond.

“The Shop with the Sheriff event is a great way for us to bond with children and youth,” said Contra Costa Sheriff David Livingston. “It is our way of giving back to the community. It is by far one of our favorite days of the year.”

With smiles on their faces, the children and Deputies then went to the North Richmond Community Senior Citizen Center for gift-wrapping and lunch.

What a wonderful way to spread holiday cheer and joy to everyone from the children to the grownups!

## Sustainable Contra Costa Recognizes Students and County Partnership with Community Groups

Two groups nominated by the Contra Costa Sustainability Commission received awards on Thursday, September 20, 2018, from local non-profit group Sustainable Contra Costa. Students from Alhambra High School's Public Health Academy in Martinez received the Rising Star Award for their work to promote the Idle Free Pledge in Martinez and Contra Costa County. The North Richmond Watershed Connections Project received the Sustainable Communities Award for its work to develop an integrated approach to infrastructure and watershed protection. Both groups were recognized at the Tenth Annual Leadership in Sustainability Awards Gala on September 20, 2018 at the Pleasant Hill Community Center.

### Let's Talk Climate and Community!

On November 8, over 50 local government staff, community members, and community-based organizations came together to study the latest research on how to communicate with diverse audiences about climate issues. The group learned that most Americans are concerned about climate change and expect their leaders to take action to protect all people from impacts



of climate change. Participants worked in small groups to craft messages specific to their work, for example, health, transportation, waste, land use, climate action planning. The workshop was made possible by a grant the County received recently from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

### Saving Money on Energy Bills

Contra Costa County offers several programs to help residents and businesses save money on their energy bills. We offer programs for people at all income levels. Learn more at <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/6859/Energy-and-Water>. If you are a County employee and



want to learn more about options for helping your department use energy more wisely, contact Demian Hardman at [Demian.Hardman@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:Demian.Hardman@dcd.cccounty.us).

We welcome your ideas on how to help Contra Costa County build healthier, stronger communities, and for County government to lead by example. Please contact Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, with your questions and suggestions. She may be reached at [Jody.London@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:Jody.London@dcd.cccounty.us) or 925-674-7871.

## Make a New Year's Resolution to Buy Local

Consider making a New Year's Resolution to make more purchases locally, right here in Contra Costa County. Every taxable dollar spent within the borders of our County benefits government operations, and public employees like us. It helps the County the most to spend money in our unincorporated communities: Taxable dollars spent in communities like Pacheco, Kensington, and Bay Point, among others, directly benefit the County's General Fund.

Online purchases do pay sales tax – but it is not allocated at point of sale like physical purchases. Online-derived sales tax gets divided-up among the entire County based on a formula of sales tax generation – so your online sales tax payments go mainly to entities that already have lots of sales tax revenue. Consumers have a choice where to buy their household groceries, gas, and other necessities of daily life. When you spend your money locally, it helps County services thrive.



## County Administrator David Twa Honored with Top CAO Award in California

Contra Costa County announced that County Administrator, David J. Twa, won statewide recognition with the 2018 Distinguished Service Award from the California Association of County Executives (CACE). The prestigious award was presented at the General Assembly of the California State Association of Counties Conference in San Diego.

The top award for County Administrator or County Executive for Distinguished Service is only handed out for truly outstanding and meritorious work. The annual award is given to an individual CAO or CEO who has demonstrated respected leadership, shown exemplary work to benefit the community through long term positive results, and serves as a role model for others in cities, counties and the state.



**“David is the ‘Cream of the Crop’ of CAOs and a mentor to all of us.”**

Board Chair, Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, was congratulatory at the Board of Supervisors meeting where he was honored in his home County. She said, “We are proud to celebrate our County Administrator David Twa’s selection as CAO of the year. We are fortunate to have David’s leadership in Contra Costa and so pleased that he has received this well-deserved award.”

“David Twa is an excellent choice to be recognized by CACE in 2018 for his distinguished service and work on behalf of all counties in California. He has represented counties on many critical issues and mentored many county leaders throughout the state,” said Birgitta E. Corsello, President of CACE.



*Supervisors John Gioia and Karen Mitchoff, Mr. Twa alongside County staff at the CSAC Conference*

County Administrator David J. Twa was recognized with a similar award for his CAO accomplishments in Minnesota where he served in multiple counties before coming to California. He was appointed to his current role in Contra Costa in 2008, and is responsible for the overall administration of County government. He holds two Bachelor’s Degrees, one in Political Science from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, and the other in Accounting from Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN. He holds a Certificate as a CPA. Mr. Twa received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Minnesota Law School in Minneapolis, MN. Prior roles include serving as County Prosecutor and the Elected County Attorney in Minnesota.

He currently serves on multiple committees and associations, including the California State Controller’s Office Advisory Committee on County Accounting Procedures, the Executive Committee for East Bay Economic Development Association, and the East Bay Regional Community System Authority (EBRCSA) Joint Powers Authority of Alameda and Contra Costa counties and 30+ cities providing regional communication channels for Emergency Services.

## Fire Chief, Jeff Carman, Named Statewide Fire Chief of the Year

In October, the California Fire Chiefs Association (CalChiefs) named Fire Chief, Jeff Carman, the association's statewide fire chief of the year. The Ronny Jack Coleman Award was presented to Chief Carman at the CalChiefs' annual conference in Sacramento. The award recognizes an outstanding member of the state fire service leadership community who is a role model for all fire chiefs in the state, as demonstrated through leadership and management locally, regionally and statewide.

Chief Carman stated that he was "honored to accept the award on behalf of the men and women of our district whose dedication, professionalism and selfless service have made all our accomplishments possible these last five years." Chief Carman went on to say that he was "...also thankful for the leadership and vision of our County Administrator and his staff, and the incredibly supportive Fire Board members who have, together, created the collaborative environment essential to our success on behalf of the citizens of Contra Costa County."



## The Department of Information Technology's New Assistant Chief Information Officer

Jennifer S. Hopkins joined Contra Costa County Department of Information Technology (DoIT) as the new Assistant Chief Information Officer. Jennifer brings over 20 years' experience in the field of technology in serving government, higher education, and the private sector. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Information Systems from Jackson State University and a Master's Degree in Management from Baker University. Previously, Jennifer served as the Chief Information Officer with the City of Fairfield. Prior to that, she held IT Director roles at the University of California, Berkeley and the City of Kansas City, MO.

Jennifer's experience encompasses a variety of roles in technology. This has given her the ability to successfully lead large, complex, transformational technology projects and organizational change. Some initiatives include: IT consolidation, building IT organizations from start-up, replacing legacy systems, disaster recovery/business continuity, IT process improvement, workforce planning and community engagement.

One of the things Jennifer is passionate about is addressing the lack of diversity and interest in IT. Besides her normal day to day duties, Jennifer has taken on other projects to help close that gap. In her past leadership roles, she helped create opportunities for high school and college students to learn more about careers in technology. She also worked on programs that created partnerships with tech giants like Apple, Amazon, and Twitter which provided hands-on experiences for students. Jennifer's most recent work includes establishing the first Job Shadowing Program in IT, which created a path to internships and permanent employment. She also served as the Co-Lead for the first University of California Youth Empowerment and Technology Conference in partnership with the Oakland Unified School District. Projects like these have enabled her to combine her profession, position, and passion to give back to the community.

Many years ago, Jennifer made a conscious choice to work in the public sector to achieve her goal of being a true "servant leader" and to be part of something bigger than herself. She is excited about being part of the Contra Costa County team and the newly formed vision of DoIT. Jennifer's motto is: "technology is not a utility; it is an opportunity to solve problems." Jennifer looks forward to using technology to "serve those who serve the public" in Contra Costa County.



## Contra Costa 2018 CSAC Institute Graduates and Honoree

The Board of Supervisors and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) celebrated the accomplishments of 41 Contra Costa County employees during the CSAC Institute Credential presentation on December 4, 2018.

The CSAC Institute for Excellence in County Government was created to provide a cost-effective, continuing education resource for new and experienced California county officials and senior staff, meeting the needs of county supervisors and staff who have few accessible opportunities for professional development.

County recipients of the CSAC Institute Credential successfully completed courses designed to help participants gather information to understand issues and make better decisions; more clearly interpret county government and policy issues and provide answers to constituents; the community and employees; strengthen leadership practices and knowledge; and prepare emerging leaders.

Bill Chiat, Dean and Manager of the CSAC Institute, who was instrumental in its creation as well as an instructor, assisted Supervisor John Gioia with the distribution of the credential certificates to the 2018 CSAC Institute graduates.

Public Works Departmental Human Resources Analyst, Kismet Teng, was awarded an honorary CSAC certificate for her logistics support and making sure the Contra Costa County CSAC Institute program ran smoothly since its inception three years ago.



Contra Costa County, in partnership with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Institute, created the Contra Costa County CSAC Institute in January 2016. Each cohort participated in a certificate program consisting of 10 courses, running for 10 consecutive months from January through October. The County Administrator's Office funded the program and there was no cost to County Employees other than their time commitment.

Thirty-seven County employees completed the inaugural offering, 40 employees completed the 2017 program and 41 employees completed the 2018 Contra Costa County CSAC Institute, bringing the total for the three-year program to 118 certificates earned in our County.

## 2018 CSAC Institute Credential Recipients

Abims Aguda  
Stefanie Blanchette  
Lia Bristol  
Steve Burdo  
Dan Cabral  
Buck Carmichael  
Lisa Driscoll  
Shanna Edwards  
Laura Garvey  
Mark Goodwin  
Ruben Hernandez

Ryan Hernandez  
James Hicks  
Glynis Hughes  
Timothy Jensen  
Bela Kisamov  
Sophie Lehman  
James Lyons  
Sharron Mackey  
Alvan Mangalindan  
Vincent Manuel  
Lavonna Martin

Linda Martinez  
Alison McKee  
Will Nelson  
Daniel Peddycord  
Tina Pruett  
Dave Rasmussen  
Phyllis Redmond  
Barbara Riveira  
Anna Roth  
Janice Santos  
Marc Shorr

Laura Strobel  
Emlyn Struthers  
Kismet Teng\*  
Marilyn Underwood  
Pramod Walse  
Holland White  
Mark Williams  
Patrick Wilson  
Belinda Zhu

\* Honorary Certificate

# 41<sup>ST</sup> MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION

**THE DREAM  
STARTS  
WITH  
ME**

**January 22, 2019  
11 a.m.**

Board of Supervisors Chambers  
651 Pine St., Room 107, Martinez, CA 94553





## Agriculture-Weights/Measures

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Yost, Larry      | 30 Years |
| Slate, Elizabeth | 20 Years |

## Animal Services Department

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Doss, Mack | 30 Years |
|------------|----------|

## Auditor-Controller

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Campbell, Robert   | 30 Years |
| Verigin, Elizabeth | 30 Years |
| Rulloda, Marie     | 20 Years |

## Board of Supervisors

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Byers, Lauri | 20 Years |
|--------------|----------|

## Clerk-Recorder's Office

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Cornelius, Pamela     | 20 Years |
| Garcia Hibner, Cheryl | 20 Years |

## Conservation and Development

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Young, Debra       | 30 Years |
| Toms, Maureen      | 25 Years |
| Douglas, Kara      | 20 Years |
| Glass, Laura       | 20 Years |
| Griffith, Timothy  | 20 Years |
| Isip, Ma Victoria  | 20 Years |
| Kopchik, John      | 20 Years |
| Smith, Alicia      | 20 Years |
| Zaragoza, Patricia | 20 Years |

## Contra Costa Fire District

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Alailima Jr., Elia      | 30 Years |
| Cannon, Denise          | 30 Years |
| Clay, Keith             | 30 Years |
| Huntze, James           | 30 Years |
| Marshall, Peter         | 30 Years |
| Lorrekovich, Jacqueline | 20 Years |

## County Administrator's Office

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Enea, Julie     | 35 Years |
| Pun, Warren     | 30 Years |
| Buenger, Joanne | 20 Years |
| McHuen, June    | 20 Years |

## District Attorney's Office

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Koeppel, Gary   | 35 Years |
| Cabral, Daniel  | 30 Years |
| Grove, Jesse    | 25 Years |
| Henderson, Jill | 20 Years |
| Love, Pamela    | 20 Years |

## Employment & Human Services

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Guerra-Freire, Doris   | 35 Years |
| Amezaga, Aida          | 30 Years |
| Charrette, Jan         | 30 Years |
| Jones, Yolanda         | 30 Years |
| Lawson-Hodges, Vondell | 30 Years |
| Owens, Evangela        | 30 Years |
| Ramlall, Bhuvaneshwari | 30 Years |
| Rezwani, Shahla        | 30 Years |
| Scott, Rhonda          | 30 Years |
| Sepulveda, Griselda    | 30 Years |
| Thomas, Jennifer       | 30 Years |
| Pearson, Jacqueline    | 25 Years |
| Sonico, Louis          | 25 Years |
| Zepeda-Lopez, Sandra   | 25 Years |
| Austin, Mary           | 20 Years |
| Camacho, James         | 20 Years |
| Ceelen, Michelle       | 20 Years |
| Daniel, Sheila         | 20 Years |
| Dixon, Rodney          | 20 Years |
| Kenney, Tracy          | 20 Years |
| McGregor, Patricia     | 20 Years |
| Nakasone, Kathryn      | 20 Years |
| Radeva, Reni           | 20 Years |
| Rahmani, Farideh       | 20 Years |
| Rankin, Shirley        | 20 Years |
| Stange, Robert         | 20 Years |
| Sterling, Shelli       | 20 Years |
| Stiles, F Timothy      | 20 Years |
| Sunia-Faoliu, Malama   | 20 Years |
| Valdivia, Yesenia      | 20 Years |
| Wall, Sandra           | 20 Years |
| Wallace, Lashonda      | 20 Years |

## Service Awards for Dates January – June 2018

### Health Services Department

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Harris, Cheryl           | 40 Years |
| Matteson, Mary           | 35 Years |
| Butler, Norma            | 30 Years |
| Condit, Mark             | 30 Years |
| Conner, Lorraine         | 30 Years |
| Drumin, Shirley          | 30 Years |
| Duckworth, Mary          | 30 Years |
| Gilbeaux, Mildred        | 30 Years |
| Guevarra, Editha         | 30 Years |
| Henry, Edward            | 30 Years |
| Horvath, Theresa         | 30 Years |
| Kyle, Christopher        | 30 Years |
| Sorrell, William         | 30 Years |
| Ternes, Korinne          | 30 Years |
| Tupper, Stacey           | 30 Years |
| Webster, Yvonne          | 30 Years |
| Bland, Gerard            | 25 Years |
| Chamberlin, Todd         | 25 Years |
| Cordier, Vanessa         | 25 Years |
| Datuin, Letitia          | 25 Years |
| Gatmaitan, Noel          | 25 Years |
| Gomez, Cynthia           | 25 Years |
| Jackson-Moore, Katherine | 25 Years |
| Jaureque, Rosa           | 25 Years |
| Johnson, Suzette         | 25 Years |
| Maramonte, Shelly        | 25 Years |
| Sook, Cynthia            | 25 Years |
| Tao, Candace             | 25 Years |
| Welcome, Tami            | 25 Years |
| Younos, Fowzia           | 25 Years |
| Aviles, Rosa Linda       | 20 Years |
| Bailey, Rachael          | 20 Years |
| Barragan, Angelica       | 20 Years |
| Bracho, Elio             | 20 Years |
| Brandt, Catherine        | 20 Years |
| Cabezas, Carla           | 20 Years |
| Carranza, Omar           | 20 Years |
| Chambers, Christine      | 20 Years |
| Cherayil, Annie          | 20 Years |
| Concannon, Corinne       | 20 Years |
| Cottone, Angela          | 20 Years |
| Crosby, Paul             | 20 Years |
| Davey, Kimberly          | 20 Years |
| Dejose, Vicky            | 20 Years |
| Deluca, Dalene           | 20 Years |
| Flores, Maricel          | 20 Years |
| Flores, Michelle         | 20 Years |
| Garcia, Steven           | 20 Years |
| Glassow, Jennifer        | 20 Years |
| Gregory, Teresa          | 20 Years |
| Guthery, Charles         | 20 Years |
| Hernandez, Estela        | 20 Years |
| Hunter, Sheila           | 20 Years |
| Jarmin, Jeffrey          | 20 Years |
| Limon, Maria             | 20 Years |
| Lindsey, Andre           | 20 Years |
| Lu, Linda                | 20 Years |
| Matute, Marcelino        | 20 Years |
| McCormick, Jane          | 20 Years |
| Molina, Jessica          | 20 Years |
| Nunez, Rene              | 20 Years |
| Pabros, Josefina         | 20 Years |
| Pearl, Judy              | 20 Years |
| Ramirez, Victor          | 20 Years |
| Reyes, Virginia          | 20 Years |
| Rodriguez, Martha        | 20 Years |
| San Juan, Jonathan       | 20 Years |
| Sendelbach, Melissa      | 20 Years |
| Serb, Mary               | 20 Years |
| Sinay, Joseph            | 20 Years |
| Stevens, Linda           | 20 Years |
| Titus, Cindy             | 20 Years |
| Visoso, Tia              | 20 Years |
| Watts, Lynnette          | 20 Years |
| White, Debra             | 20 Years |
| Zavala, Paula            | 20 Years |

### Library

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Deng, Stacie         | 35 Years |
| Mraz, Dolores        | 30 Years |
| Hinton, Stacie       | 25 Years |
| Probation Department |          |
| Coleman, Forrest     | 25 Years |
| Jones, William       | 25 Years |
| Broussard, Edwin     | 20 Years |
| Ebrahimi, John       | 20 Years |
| Figueroa, Maura      | 20 Years |
| Nightingale, Judith  | 20 Years |
| Stanley, Jeannette   | 20 Years |
| White, James         | 20 Years |

### Public Works Department

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Tourte, Jerrold          | 35 Years |
| Consolacion, Mario       | 30 Years |
| Pollock-Knopoff, Christy | 30 Year  |
| Sinz, Monica             | 30 Years |
| Jazgar, Bogdan           | 25 Years |
| Aguilar, Tony            | 20 Years |
| Lai, Warren              | 20 Years |
| Redmond, Ronald          | 20 Years |
| Stein, James             | 20 Years |

### Sheriff-Coroner's Office

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Aires, Tricia        | 30 Years |
| Arbuckle, Elizabeth  | 30 Years |
| Dehope, Jacqueline   | 30 Years |
| Hutchinson, Scott    | 30 Years |
| Commiskey, Heilig    | 25 Years |
| Harris, Matthew      | 25 Years |
| Benjamin, Kevin      | 20 Years |
| Butterfield, Kristi  | 20 Years |
| Campbell, Derek      | 20 Years |
| Cook, David          | 20 Years |
| Cushman, David       | 20 Years |
| Fontenot, Anthony    | 20 Years |
| Harrison, Jami       | 20 Years |
| Klein, William       | 20 Years |
| Landers, Patsy       | 20 Years |
| MacLennan, Ryan      | 20 Years |
| Marchese, Kenneth    | 20 Years |
| Perez, Jorge         | 20 Years |
| Simmons, Christopher | 20 Years |
| Zamora, Nubia        | 20 Years |

## Retirements with 20+ Years Service January – June 2018

### County Administrator's Office

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Wright, Susan | 35 Years |
| Vo, Tri       | 32 Years |
| Evans, Jim    | 29 Years |

### Employment & Human Services

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Do, Ninh                 | 37 Years |
| McCormick, Jean          | 37 Years |
| Shannon, Teresa          | 33 Years |
| Ary, Gwenette            | 31 Years |
| Bishop, Peggy            | 30 Years |
| LeBoeuf, Marcia          | 30 Years |
| Scott, Rhonda            | 30 Years |
| Amezaga, Aida            | 29 Years |
| Walls, Gale              | 29 Years |
| De La Montanya, Beth     | 28 Years |
| Forman, Michael          | 28 Years |
| Cook, Deanna             | 27 Years |
| De Sanchez, Miriam       | 27 Years |
| Gwaltney, Gail           | 27 Years |
| Seshasubbaraman, Lalgudi | 27 Years |
| Tierney, Diana           | 27 Years |
| O'Brien, Cheryl          | 21 Years |

\*Information as reported to County Clips by departments.  
All departments were invited to submit recent retiree information. Some departments may not have done so.

## Hello Food Fighters,

A BIG thank you to those of you who came to the Kickoff Breakfast for the 2018 Holiday Food Fight and those who participated in the Cookie Exchange and Contest. The cookies were all delicious! Congratulations to Diane Ramirez who won 1st Place for the Best Tasting Cookie with the "Everything But the Kitchen Sink Chocolate Chip Cookie". Erica Ellis won 2nd Place with the "Brown Butter Butterscotch Oatmeal Cookie", and Cicelia McGee won 3rd Place with the "Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Cookie."



Great baking! Pauline Fentener Van Vlissingen was the winner of the raffle prize that we put together. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves, got motivated, and most of all... had fun!



— SAVE THE DATE —



## Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

# 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Celebration

## Todos Bienvenidos

Tuesday, March 26, 2019 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors' Chambers  
651 Pine Street, Room 107, Martinez

